

# PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE BULLETIN

Vol. XXIX, No. 5

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December, 7, 1976

## Naomi Levine, Executive Director of American Jewish Congress Speaker at Sisterhood Sabbath, December 10 — 8:30 P.M.

Naomi Levine, National Executive Director of the American Jewish Con-

gress, will be the guest speaker at the Sisterhood Sabbath service on Friday

night, December 10. The service will be conducted by Rabbi Judah Nadich and Cantor David Lefkowitz with the synagogue choir with Mr. Neil Robinson at the organ. Mrs. Levine will speak on "Problems and Prospects of the American Jewish Community: 1977."

### Schedule of Religious Services

Friday night, December 10 .....8:30 p.m.

#### ANNUAL SISTERHOOD SERVICE

Naomi Levine, executive director, American Jewish Congress  
will speak on

"PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS  
OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY: 1977"

Oneg Shabbat and discussion following the service

Saturday morning, December 11 .....9:30 a.m.

Rabbi Judah Nadich will teach

"HUSBAND AND WIFE"

ethical insights from Jewish Tradition

Friday night, December 17 .....8:30 p.m.

#### HANUKKAH SERVICE

Rabbi Nadich will speak on

"MACCABEES THEN AND NOW"

A Hanukkah Sermon

Saturday morning, December 18 .....9:30 a.m.

#### Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Finkel

Son of Mr. and Mrs. David Finkel

Friday night, December 24 .....8:30 p.m.

Rabbi Nadich will speak on

"THE JEWISH MESSIAH"

Saturday morning, December 25 .....9:30 a.m.

Rabbi Nadich will teach

"HUSBAND AND WIFE" — Part Two

Friday night, December 31 .....8:30 p.m.

Rabbi Nadich will speak on

"SAYING FAREWELL TO THE BICENTENNIAL"

Saturday morning, January 1 .....9:30 a.m.

Rabbi Nadich will teach

*Rabbi Judah Nadich will speak and lead the services, together with Cantor David Lefkowitz and the synagogue choir with Mr. Neil Robinson at the organ.*



**Naomi Levine**

Naomi Levine is the first woman to hold the position of National Executive Director of the American Jewish Congress. Formerly the director of the Commission on Urban Affairs of The American Jewish Congress, she was, for many years, assistant professor in race relations at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Prior to her work with the Congress,

(Continued on Page 3)



## Musical Notes from The Cantor

### Dates Set for Special Musical Events

In order to make our Jewish musical heritage an intrinsic part of Park Avenue Synagogue's cultural program, we are establishing a format of three annual major musical events. Each will be representative of a significant aspect of Jewish music which is so diverse in its nature.

### Service of Classical Liturgical Music on March 12

On Saturday morning, March 12, 1977, the sanctuary of the synagogue will be the scene of the First Annual Service of Classical Liturgical Music. This service will consist of outstanding choral and cantorial music composed over the past several centuries, much of which is completely unknown or forgotten. In fact, there is an enormous quantity of liturgical music which has never been published and exists only in manuscripts that are buried in libraries and private collections. It is the purpose of this annual special service to uncover and bring to light unknown gems of the past which can enrich our present culture.

### Liturgical Works of Jewish Composers on April 22

Similarly, on Friday evening, April 22, 1977, we shall have a worship service presenting liturgical works of contemporary Jewish composers. During the past three decades, our congregation, under the leadership of Hazzan David J. Putterman, commissioned nearly seventy outstanding Jewish composers to write music for the synagogue. This example has provided the impetus for other congregations throughout the country to do likewise. As a result, more music has probably been created for the synagogue in thirty years than in the past three thousand years! It will be our purpose on April 22, to select from the very finest of these pieces.

The research and program organizing for both of these services is being done by Cantor David Lefkowitz and Mr. Abraham Kaplan, in consultation with leading musicologists and Jewish music libraries throughout the world.

Mr. Kaplan, our newly engaged Director of Choral Activities, will conduct

both services. A special augmented choir will be used to enhance the carefully selected music. The choir will be made up of members of the Camerata Singers, the nationally celebrated professional chorus of which Mr. Kaplan is the founder and conductor.

### Gala Orchestral Concert on May 19

Our third and final musical event of the year will be a gala orchestral concert with Cantor David Lefkowitz and our Park Avenue Chorale, under the baton of Abraham Kaplan. This concert will take place on Thursday evening, May 19, 1977, and will mark the culmination of our chorale's first season of musical activity. The concert program will feature various types of Jewish concert music as well as music of classical composers of Judaic themes.

Details of these musical events will be given in future issues of the *Bulletin*.

## Music in Our School

The Elementary Department, in preparation for its special Bicentennial program on December 12, has two choirs of different age groups concentrating on Hebrew, English and Yiddish songs of the last two hundred years. Some are songs which immigrants brought with them from their native land. The choirs are under the direction of our personable young Israeli music teacher, Mr. Yaacov Bergman.

Our High School also has a choir, now in its second year. Its director, Shelley Katsch, is seeking to broaden the scope of the group by adding instrumentation. High School boys and girls in the community who play instruments are encouraged to contact Cantor Lefkowitz, Mr. Geffen or Ms. Katsch. The choir's plans for this year include some programs together with Cantor Lefkowitz.

## Religious School Students Celebrate Bicentennial

The month of November was dedicated to the study of the Bicentennial and the contributions made by our forefathers to 200 years of American history.

Grades Bet, Gimel, Daled and Hay of the Religious School concentrated on the study of the history of the Jews in early America from 1654 to the present day. Study units were prepared by members of the faculty covering the immigration and settlement of Jews from Germany, Central Europe and from Eastern Europe during the nineteenth century and the American Jewish experience in the twentieth century. The students identified with the lives and deeds of their ancestors who first settled on these shores and followed their adjustment in their new country. The studies also covered great American Jewish per-

sonalities in all areas of life, the growth of the synagogue as the center of Jewish life, the opportunities gained in the land of opportunity, *tzedakah*—as an everyday duty, the power of generosity and charity that have provided help for the needy throughout the land.

Complementing this program, the students met in group sessions—dramatics, narration, choir, arts and crafts and stagecraft to prepare for the culminating event.

### Our Bicentennial Pageant

This major event will take place on Sunday afternoon, December 12, at 3:00 p.m. in the Lemberg Auditorium. All are cordially invited to attend the Bicentennial Pageant which will be followed by the opening of the annual Book Fair.

## If You Want an Aliyah

If you are observing a special occasion which should be marked by an *aliyah* during the reading of the Torah at synagogue services, please make your request to the synagogue office at least a week or two beforehand by phoning the synagogue office — EN 9-2600.

## A Speedy Recovery

We are sorry that the following friends and members of the congregation are ill and we send them best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery: Dr. Andre Ballard, Edwin Davidson, Lawrence Levine.

May they soon be healed by the Divine Healer!

### DAILY MINYAN

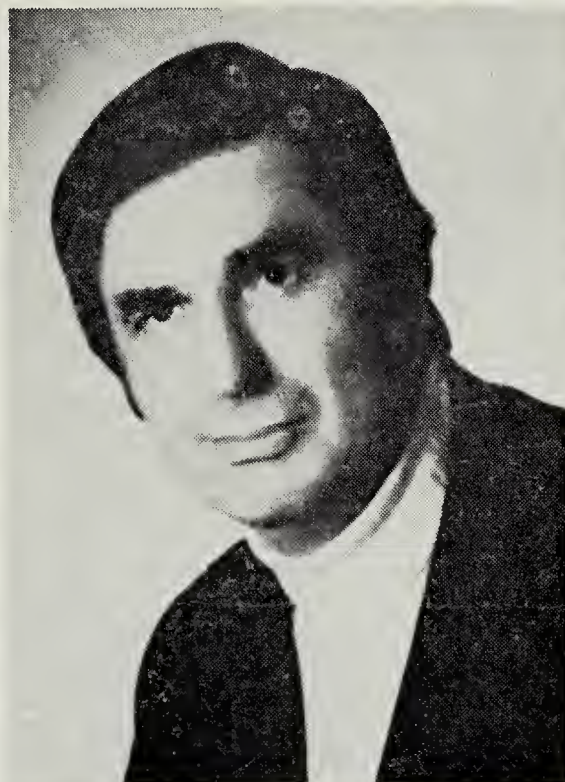
Evening Chapel Service  
5:45 p.m. (one half hour)  
Sponsored by Men's Club



## Dan Kurzman, Foreign Correspondent, Author, Guest Speaker at Meeting, Dec. 14 Sponsored by Parents Association during The Annual Book Fair

Dan Kurzman, an award-winning foreign correspondent and author of *The Bravest Battle: The 28 Days of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising*, will be the guest speaker at the open meeting of the Parents Association to be held on Tuesday evening, December 14, at 8:00 p.m. in the Lemberg Auditorium. The annual Book Fair sponsored by the Parents Association will be open from 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. and books can be purchased before the meeting and after the talk by Mr. Kurzman.

Dan Kurzman, formerly with the *Washington Post*, has written or broadcast from almost every country in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, reporting news on wars, revolutions and upheavals. There is a Dan Kurzman Collection at Boston University, recognizing his "important contribution to 20th century journalism and historical literature." He began his career as an International News Service correspondent in Paris, then served as the National Broadcasting Company's correspondent in



**Dan Kurzman**

the Middle East. He later became Tokyo bureau chief for the Mc Graw — Hill World News Service.

The author of many books, Mr.

Kurzman dedicates his latest book, *The Bravest Battle* "To Stephen and Joel whose generation, hopefully, will not forget". It is a very skilled, journalistic account of the uprising events of four weeks and the narrative is informed, factual and suspenseful.

### Author of Many Books

Among his other books are *Genesis*, *The Race for Rome*, *Kishis and Japan*, *Santo Domingo: Revolt of the Damned and Supervision of the Innocents*, which won the Overseas Press Club Award for the best book in 1963 on foreign affairs.

### Social Hour to Follow Talk

In behalf of the Parents Association, Mrs. Milton Gelman, president, Mrs. Morton Davis, chairman of the meeting, and Mrs. Herbert Frommer, chairman of the Book Fair, invite congregants, their friends and families to attend the Book Fair and the open meeting on December 14. Refreshments and a social hour will follow the discussion by Dan Kurzman

## Adult Education

### Mrs. Martha Hadassah Nadich

will continue her lectures on "What is Zionism?" on Tuesday mornings, December 14 and December 21, from 10:30 - 12 noon in the Sisterhood Lounge. The course sponsored by Sisterhood discusses in detail a subject of distinctive importance because of the recent attacks on Zionism in the U.N. Mrs. Nadich is well known to congregants of our synagogue where she has conducted study groups, lectured on topics of Jewish interest and given book reports. She is an excellent speaker who knows her subject well and presents it interestingly.

**Rabbi Harlan Wechsler** will continue his fascinating course on "The Sabbath—A Palace in Time" through December 15. An instructor in the Department of Philosophy and Ethics at The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Rabbi Wechsler is a respected teacher in our Adult Education program. His course on the Sabbath dealing with its practices and customs, its place in Jewish literature and philosophy, its warmth, its joy and its beauty has been attended by an enthusiastic class.

## Sisterhood Service

(Continued from Page 1)

Mrs. Levine, a graduate of Columbia Law School and editor of the Law Review there, practiced law in New York City. An authority on intergroup relations, she is the author of articles and books on the subject.

During the service Mrs. Charles Bennet, President of Sisterhood, and Mrs. Charles Beller will sit on the *bimah* and the following members of Sisterhood will participate in the service: Mrs. Judah Nadich and Mrs. Arnold Pearlman—Hebrew prayers; Mrs. Jacob Applebaum, Mrs. Jack Boneparth, Mrs. Saul A. Finkel, Mrs. Joseph Frankel, Mrs. Marguerite Rollin and Mrs. Muriel Willins—English prayers.

### Oneg Shabbat to Follow Service

Mrs. Herman Berger, Mrs. Jack Boneparth and Mrs. Isidor Hahn will supervise the *Oneg Shabbat* tea and reception following the service. Sisterhood invites all congregants, their families and friends to attend on December 10. A special welcome is extended to our new members.

## PAS University Program For Students

Over fifty students are participants in the Park Avenue Synagogue University Program, under the direction of Rabbi Judah Nadich and Peter Geffen, principal of the synagogue High School Department. Each student has been mailed a survey to determine the future course of activities. Proposals range from the mailing of subscriptions to periodicals of Jewish interest to each student, to special retreats and conferences throughout the year. It is hoped that this increased democratization will enhance the involvement of students in the synagogue university program.

A special fund has made the university program possible for the past several years endowed by Mr. and Mrs. Burton Kossoff in memory of their daughter, Stephanie Kossoff, a courageous young lady whose life reflected the high ideals associated with the philosophy of Judaism and was an inspiration to many, including her peers at college.



## Jewish Summer Fair Offers Parents Programs For Children

As winter snows loom on the horizon, parents and children begin to dream of summer. Strange but true, by January 20, most summer plans have to be made. Therefore Parents Association is sponsoring an evening of Jewish camping and travel opportunities for summer 1977.

On Wednesday night, January 19, 1977 from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. representatives from the twenty major Jewish camps in the Northeast—both day and sleep-away—will assemble in the Lemberg Auditorium for a Jewish summer fair. Parents will be able to go from booth to booth and discuss the various programs available for children of all ages. In addition to camping, special programs for teenagers will be represented. These will include travel programs in the United States, Europe and Israel. There will also be special programs in the sciences and the arts, counselor in training, work and social service projects.

It is our conviction that the summer is a wonderful opportunity for enhancing our children's Jewish education. We are offering you a chance to choose from a wide variety of programs with the hope that one of them will be suitable for your child. Please reserve January 19 for our Jewish Summer Fair.

## Mr. and Mrs. Club Sponsors Backgammon Evening December 9

On Thursday evening, December 9, the Mr. and Mrs. Club will sponsor an evening of backgammon at 8:15 p.m. in the Lemberg Auditorium. Congregants have already received their invitations and have been asked to send their reservations to the Mr. and Mrs. Club, 50 East 87 Street, New York, N. Y. 10028. Admission is \$2.50 per person for an evening of backgammon, including instruction and refreshments. Boards will be provided and instruction will be available for beginners who wish to learn the game. If you do not play, you can watch others and perhaps you, too, will be tempted to learn this fascinating game.

Elinor Billet and Ruth Zucker, co-chairpersons of the affair, look forward to greeting you on December 9.

## Book Fair Dec. 12-15

**Sponsored by Parents Association**

The annual Book Fair sponsored by the Parents Association will take place from Sunday, December 12, through Wednesday, December 15 in the Lemberg Auditorium. The fair aims to infuse in young and old the love for Jewish knowledge through the reading of Jewish classics and contemporary works. The Book Fair will feature books for children, teen-agers and adults as well as records and there will be a special display of books particularly recommended for the Jewish library.

Mrs. Herbert Frommer, chairperson; Mrs. Arnold Lederman, co-chairperson, arranged the schedule printed below for the convenience of congregants, their families and friends, who, it is hoped, will attend and buy books for their own libraries and as suitable gifts for all occasions—especially at this time of the year as *Hanukkah* gifts.

### Sunday, December 12

Opening day of Book Fair from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**The Bicentennial Pageant** presented by the children of the Religious School will take place at 3:00 p.m.

The sale of books will continue until 5:00 p.m.

### Monday, December 13

**Open House** and sale of books from 11:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, December 14

Sale of books from 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. for Nursery School children and their parents. Sale of books will continue until 10:00 p.m. At 8:00 p.m. the Parents Association will hold an open meeting featuring the noted author, Dan Kurzman, author of "The Bravest Battle."

### Wednesday, December 15

Sale of books from 12 noon - 6:30 p.m. and will continue from 7:30 until 8:00 p.m. to permit students of the Adult Education classes to purchase books.

## Attention—Parents of Young Children

As a convenience to parents wishing to attend *Shabbat* and holiday services, the Parents Association is considering the sponsorship of a supervised group activity program for pre-school children.

To determine the feasibility of this project, we would like to find out how many families would be interested in participating in such a program on a regular basis and the ages of the children to be included. In order to properly evaluate this project, your prompt reply will be appreciated. Please indicate your interest and the age or ages of your children in a note addressed to the Office of the Rabbi at the synagogue.

## Congratulations

*The congregation is happy to extend congratulations to:*

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Arluck and Mrs. Murray Wenglin upon the marriage of their children, Deborah Wenglin, to Keith Reig Arluck

## Hanukkah Program For Elderly Jews Planned by Students

On Sunday, December 12, the students of the High School will provide a *Hanukkah* program for elderly Jews on the upper West Side. The program is sponsored by a new organization in the Jewish community, *Dorot*, which seeks to bridge the gap between generations through social service work with the Jewish elderly, often the poor Jewish elderly. Presentations will be made by the High School choir and drama group. It is hoped that this will be the first in an ongoing social service project by our students with *Dorot*.

## Candle Lighting Time

Friday, Dec. 10 .....	4:09 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 17 .....	4:10 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 24 .....	4:13 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 31 .....	4:18 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 16

Light first *Hanukkah* Candle

### Someone Needs YOU!

**A child with leukemia.**

**A child with hemophilia.**

**A person awaiting open heart surgery.**

**Help them - Give blood.**

**Call UN 1-7200**

**The Greater New York  
Blood Program**



## Our Proposed New Park Avenue Synagogue

In this article, the third in a series on the New Park Avenue Synagogue, we shall visit the second floor with its ten High School classrooms for ten students each and the Library Learning-Center of 3000 sq. ft. which will house 15,000 volumes on its shelves and seat 50 students.

### The High School Classrooms

Ten classrooms have been assigned for high school students. Each is 160 sq. ft. designed for ten students. Sliding acoustical walls can be opened to make five larger classrooms—each capable of handling twenty students—all with natural lighting, clothes closets and storage area in each room. We have an excellent faculty, a well designed program of study—and most important—good students, our leaders of tomorrow.

### The Library-Learning Center

Mr. George M. Shapiro, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, has referred to this 3000 sq. ft. Library Center as a mark of our "Devotion to Excellence." No school can be better than its library. The Library will house 15,000 books dealing with Jewish life and learning, civilization and culture. There will be seating for 150 students, an alcove for small seminars

and a librarian work alcove. Here elementary and high school students can pursue individual and class research projects together with their instructors. Children of the Early Childhood Center can enjoy study and reading periods in the separate children's reading room. Here adults can come to browse, read and study in a warm friendly atmosphere. At the far left of the center are individual study carrels; a music library; an audio/visual library; a video workshop and a new youth lounge with its own small kitchen and a Seminar Room for twenty students. Every effort has been made to provide facilities suitable to serve the needs of children and members.

### And Much More . . .

The Rabbi's study with a secretary's alcove and storage area will be located on the second floor as will the Cantor's study and a room for teaching and holding choir rehearsals. The office of the Director of the High School and Youth Activities will be located on this floor. The elevator foyer will connect the existing and new building.

In the next article we shall visit the third, fourth and fifth floors, the classrooms for the elementary students and

the children of the Early Childhood Center. In the final installment, we shall visit the sixth floor—the *Sukkah* roof garden and the outdoor and indoor play and recreation area.

### Your Gift Can Make This Possible

The more we delve into the design for the new Park Avenue Synagogue, the better we realize how well the facilities have been planned and the many advantages they offer. The New Park Avenue Synagogue is exciting and well planned. We are at the half way mark in the \$3 million Building Construction Fund Campaign. All of us working together can make the proposed new Park Avenue Synagogue a reality.

### Your generous gift is the answer

We hope that you, like so many of our dedicated, loyal congregants will send your contribution to Rabbi Judah Nadich, 50 East 87 Street, New York, N. Y. 10028.

We quote from the Ethics of the Fathers—2: 13.—"Which course is the best for a man to pursue in life?" Rabbi Eleazar answered: "A Generous Heart".

*Rhea M. Ruttenberg, Editor*

## ROLL OF HONOR: Contributors of \$1000 or More

Since the November *Bulletin* listing the names of contributors of \$1000 or more was printed, the following congregants have been added to the Roll of Honor. Park Avenue Synagogue expresses appreciation for their generous contributions.

**Dr. and Mrs. Samuel M. Bloom**

**Mr. and Mrs. Leon Fromer**

**Mr. and Mrs. Norman Levy**

**Send Your Contribution now  
to the Building Fund.**

## We Take Pride In Our Members

**Connie (Mrs. Richard) Cohen** who is having an exhibit of her paintings at the historic Arsenal Gallery of the Department of Parks and Recreation, 64th Street, West of Fifth Avenue. The exhibit which opened on December 2, will continue through December 22, and will be open to the public Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

**Maurice M. Boukstein**, who was one of four distinguished persons to be honored with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy *honoris causa* at the 27th annual general meeting of the Board of Governors of the Weizmann Institute of Science.

**Bruce J. Gould, J.D.**, who is a staff Associate of the Committee on Housing and Urban Development Department of Public Affairs, Community Service Society of New York.

**Beatrice (Mrs. Louis I.) Kaplan**, chairman of the Board of the Women's Division UJA-Federation, Manhattan Organization 1977.

**Dr. Mathilde Krim**, who served as dinner chairman of the 31st annual dinner of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science on October 18. Dr. Krim, a leading researcher at the Sloan-Kettering Institute in New York, was formerly with the Weizmann Institute.

**Stephen Stulman**, who was recently reelected president of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science.



## Hanukkah Service for the Home

On the first night of *Hanukkah*, one candle is to be lit. On the next night two candles are lit, and one more candle is added every night until eight are lit on the eighth night. In addition to these, a "Servant" Candle is used to kindle all of the others (The *Shamash*). The Blessing for the Servant light is recited every day. It is followed by the reading of the paragraph for the day. After the lighting of the candles, all should join in singing the *Hanukkah* hymn. As you face the candles, they are placed from right to left but lit from left to right.

### The Blessing (to be recited each day)

*Ba-ruch A-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hay-nu  
Meh-lech Ha-o-lam  
Ah-sheer Keed-sha-nu B'meez-vo-tav  
V'izee-va-nu*

*L'had-leek Nayr Shel Hanukkah*

Praised be Thou, O Lord, Our God, Ruler of the World, Who has sanctified us by His Commandments and commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

*Ba-ruch A-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hay-nu  
Meh-lech Ha-o-lam  
She-a-sa Nee-seem La-ah-vo-tay-nu  
Ba-ya-min Ha-haym Ba-z'man  
Ha-zeh*

Praised be Thou, O Lord, Our God, Ruler of the universe, who didst wondrous things for our fathers, in days of old, at this season.

### To be recited on the First Night only

*Ba-ruch A-tah A-do-nai E-lo-hay-nu  
Meh-lech Ha-o-lam  
She-beh-che-ya-nu V'kee-ye-mah-nu  
V'hi-gi-gab-nu La-Zman Ha-zeh*

Praised be Thou, O Lord, Our God, Ruler of the world, who has granted us life, sustained us, and permitted us to celebrate this joyous festival.

### The Servant Light or Shamash (to be recited each day)

As one candle may kindle many others and not lose some of its own light, so Judaism has kindled the light of truth for many religions in many lands and still shines brightly through the ages.

### For The First Day:

The first light tells of Him whose first command was "Let there be light." The darkness of idol worship was scattered when Israel brought radiant knowledge of one God. "I am the first and I am the last," saith the Lord.

### For The Second Day:

The second light is the light of the Torah. Israel's book of law has brought learning and truth to all of the western world. "The commandment is a lamp and the law is a light."

### For The Third Day:

The third light is the light of justice. No nation can endure which is unjust to the weak. "Justice, always Justice shalt thou pursue," was the commandment of Moses, our teacher.

### For The Fourth Day:

The fourth light is the light of Mercy. Cruelty hardens the heart and destroys friendships. "Do justice and love mercy" was the teaching of Micah the prophet.

### For The Fifth Day:

The fifth light is the light of Holiness. Purity of thought, nobility of action make life sacred. From the prophet Isaiah, these words have been taken into Israel's prayer book: "Holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts."

### For The Sixth Day:

The sixth light is the digit of Love. When the love which our parents give us makes all our life beautiful, we learn to understand the Biblical words, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and soul and might."

### For The Seventh Day:

The seventh light is the calm light of patience. Nothing can be achieved in haste. The spreading tree and the soul of man grow slowly to perfection. Thus sang King David, "Trust in the Lord, wait patiently for Him."

### For The Eighth Day:

The eighth light is the light of courage. Let truth and justice be your armor and fear not Judah Maccabee, the hero of *Hanukkah* lived by the words Moses spoke to Joshua. "Be strong and of good courage."

### WANTED! WANTED!

#### Volunteers For New Choral Group to be directed by Abraham Kaplan

"If you have the voice, the time,  
the desire and seek the gratifi-  
cation and pleasure of being  
part of a fine choral group,  
we want you".

Call 799-3183

## High School Seminar For Parents

On Monday, December 6, the High School Parents Seminar inaugurated its second year. The opening evening featured presentations by members of the High School faculty in three areas of curriculum. The discussion was chaired by Peter Geffen, Principal of the Park Avenue Synagogue High School Department. The purpose of the evening was to acquaint parents with subjects being taught in the high school, how they are presented, and the issues that emerge as a result of exploration of these areas. The evening was structured around a provocative article by the noted educator, Charles Silberman which appeared in *Moment* magazine last spring. The article was sent to all high school parents before December 6, in the hope that all participants will read it and use it as a basis for evaluating the curriculum presentations. It is hoped that this seminar format will allow for greater and more informed discussion among parents who attend these meetings throughout the year. Further details can be obtained from the Religious School office—TE 1-8686.

Coffee and dessert preceded the meeting at 7:30 p.m. which took place at the home of Mrs. Alice Berger.

## Anniversaries

*Congratulations to congregants who recently celebrated anniversaries:*

Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Abrams  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Altman  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Bessinger  
Mr. and Mrs. Avron Ira Brog  
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin J. Cohen  
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Davidson  
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Druss  
Mr. and Mrs. Conrad B. Duberstein  
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Epstein  
Mr. and Mrs. Max Feld  
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Fogelson  
Mr. and Mrs. William Goldfine  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack I. Goldfinger  
Dr. and Mrs. Stanley V. Greenwald  
Mr. and Mrs. Max Halpert  
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Kleinwechsler  
Mr. and Mrs. Morton Kline  
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin D. Kraft  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Krim  
Mr. and Mrs. Joel Levitt  
Mr. and Mrs. Herman F. Levy  
Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Lichtenfeld  
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin J. Lurie  
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Paley  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Perlman  
Hon. and Mrs. Irving M. Rosen  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald N. Schiller  
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Thylan  
Dr. and Mrs. Nathan Weinstein



## A Guide for Jewish Families Regarding Christmas Adopted by the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis

In response to many inquiries, the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis suggests the following answers to questions posed during the Christmas season. It is not our intention to issue a dogmatic pronouncement on this subject. It is our purpose, however, to provide some measure of guidance and understanding for those members of the Jewish faith who desire counsel on these matters.

### 1. Is Christmas a national holiday which all Jews can observe in good conscience?

A. Christmas is not a national holiday. It is an important Christian holy day which celebrates the birth of Jesus, the Christian Messiah. Christmas is not in the same category as Thanksgiving Day, Fourth of July, Decoration Day, or any other American holiday. CHRISTMAS is a sacred festival for Christians who regard Jesus as their Messiah and Savior. Inasmuch as we Jews believe that God alone is Savior and Protector, we cannot in good conscience observe Christmas. To ask us to do so is to violate our religious principles.

### 2. Is it not true that many Americans do consider Christmas to be a national holiday?

A. Responsible community leaders deplore the perversion of the Christmas season and are trying to do something about it. Bishop Arthur C. Lichtenberger has declared, "We cannot have Christmas without Christ."

### 3. Is it wise, however, for Jews to make such an issue over Christmas? Would it not be better part of discretion to "go along" with our Christian neighbors even if it means observing Christmas?

A. No matter involving the violation of strong religious convictions can be regarded as trivial or minor. The true spirit of Americanism would never compel anyone to act in conflict with his freedom of conscience. Our early American forebears came to these shores precisely for the opportunity to worship God according to the dictates of their hearts.

### 4. What about the Christmas tree?

A. The Christmas tree is a Christmas symbol which, for many Christians, has important Christological significance. The Christmas tree has no place in the Jewish home.

### 5. Is it appropriate to give Christmas gifts to Christian friends?

A. It is appropriate to give Christmas gifts or cards to our Christian friends if we so desire. Christmas gifts or cards should not be given to our fellow Jews. We present a gift to someone in honor of the holiday he celebrates.

### 6. Should Jewish children participate in Christmas plays in public schools?

A. Christmas plays generally portray Christian church themes which have no place in a public school. Jewish children should not be expected to participate in these plays. On the other hand, some schools hold a so-called "Winter Festival" in which an attempt is made to avoid all religious connotations. It is exceedingly hard, however, to draw the distinction. If the parent feels that the performance is free of all sectarian religious overtones, children may participate.

### 7. Should Jewish children sing Christmas carols?

A. Carols are Christian religious hymns and do not belong in the public school. Jewish children should not be required to sing hymns which embody a theology which they do not accept.

### 8. Do we harm our children by directing them not to participate?

A. The classroom is but one among many places which reveal the existence of difference among Americans. Religious differences are significant differences. We further our children's personal growth when we teach them this fact by such simple statements as "This is what we do." and "This is what we don't do." Non-participation in Christmas celebrations will not harm the Jewish child whose parents have given him a warm appreciation of his own

Jewish heritage. Such harm can ensue only when the absence of affirmative Jewish education leaves the child in a spiritual vacuum.

### 9. What about other Jewish children who participate in Christmas observances in the public schools?

A. There are parents who do not accept the guidance of informed and responsible Jewish leadership. They proceed on their own when they permit their children to participate in Christmas observances. This may confuse the children of parents who do follow the thoughtful recommendations of Jewish leadership. Jewish parents will help their children most if they (1) know and understand the thinking of responsible Jewish leadership and recognize that most parents want to follow it; and (2) assure their children that despite the participation of some Jewish children, Jewish leaders have taken a strong position for non-participation in observances of a holiday not their own — and that this is also their position.

### 10. Should Hanukkah be celebrated in the public schools?

A. To do so uses taxpayers' money for sectarian purposes and jeopardizes the principle of the separation of church and state, without which there can be no religious freedom. The proper places for the observance of *Hanukkah* are the synagogue and the Jewish home. We must not ask the public school to assume the responsibilities of our congregations and families.

### 11. Should we encourage joint Hanukkah-Christmas celebrations in the public schools?

A. The addition of *Hanukkah* observances only compounds the evils noted above. Separation of church and state, a principle precious to American life, requires neither Christmas nor *Hanukkah* be celebrated in the public school. The subject of Christmas and *Hanukkah* represents a highly sensitive area. We recommend that parents who are in doubt about the application of these principles to specific situations consult their own Rabbi.

This statement based on a similar message issued by the St. Louis Rabbinical Association, has been unanimously adopted by the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis.

## Retirees Group

The Retirees Group for *men only* meets every Thursday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in the Sisterhood Lounge. Although the group has grown in number since its inception, all retired or semi-retired men are invited to join. Programs include talks by members on topics with which they are particularly familiar and on current events.

**Parents of Bar Mitzvah boys will be pleased to know that the Ceremonial Gift Shop carries a fine selection of Tallitot and Tefillin.**

## Condolences

*Park Avenue Synagogue extends heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved of our congregation and their families:*

Mrs. Joseph Block upon the death of her husband

The family of Gertrude (Mrs. Jacob) Klein upon her death

Mrs. Morton Kline upon the death of her sister, Marguerite Mazur

Hon. Millard Midonick upon the death of his wife, Dorothy

Mr. Frank Moroze upon the death of his father, Samuel Moroze

Mrs. Edward Peiper upon the death of her brother, Bertram J. Friedman

## Education Students Visit Our School

A number of students in Religious Education who are working toward their Master's degree at the Teachers Institute of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, together with Dr. Joseph Reimer, Professor of Education, at the Teachers Institute, have visited classes on different grade levels at the Park Avenue Synagogue Religious School. The visit was preceded by an orientation session with Mrs. Rahel Bloch, principal of the Elementary School, and followed by a question and answer period in her office.



## Contributions

### Synagogue Offerings

Miss Rita Askenas in memory of Anna Askenas

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Berger in honor of Mr. Ira Lee who was named *Hatan Torah* for *Simbat Torah*, 5737

Mr. David R. Finkel in memory of his mother, Rae O. Finkel

Mrs. Rosalie Goldberg in memory of Dr. Harry N. Samberg

Mr. Bruce J. Gould in memory of his mother, Sadye Goldenberg

Mr. and Mrs. Leon I. Heller in memory of Max J. Heller

Mrs. Fernande Hoexter in memory of her husband, J. Jack Hoexter, and her father, L. Simon Metzger

Mrs. Elyse Honigberg in memory of John M. Honigberg and Lena Greenfield

Mrs. Lillian Janovic in memory of Joseph Janovic

Mrs. Gladys B. Kessler

Mrs. Helen Kolber in memory of Ida Kolber

Mrs. Wilma Kurzner in memory of Dr. Rudolph Goldberg

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Ladin in memory of their brother, Irving Geist

Mr. Arthur Lejwa in memory of her husband

Mrs. Anna Rapoport

Mrs. Samuel Rosen in memory of loved ones

Mrs. Murray Rothenberg in memory of David S. Empel

Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Soichet in memory of Sabina Soichet

Mr. Oscar Stern in memory of Max Stern

Mr. Eric Stiebel in memory of his mother, Friedel Elba

Dr. Mark Swartz in memory of his mother, Hilda I. Swartz

Mrs. Sergiu Victor in memory of her husband

Mr. Alvin Wetzler

### Building Fund

Mr. and Mrs. Jack J. Boneparth

Dr. and Mrs. Leslie M. Hammel

Mrs. Sylvia R. Jacobs

Dr. and Mrs. Kalman Selig in honor of the birth of their grandson, John Stephen Rubenstein

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Kleinwecksler

Mr. Charles E. Winer in memory of Milton Brown

Ms. Gloria Wittels in memory of her father, Max Kaplan

### Welfare Fund

Mrs. Shirley Book

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Danas

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Marcus

Mr. and Mrs. Richard I. Rudell in memory of Benjamin Gross

Mr. and Mrs. Richard I. Rudell in memory of Max Goodman

### Prayer Book Fund

Mr. and Mrs. Max Halpert in honor of Mr. Arthur Fine being named *Hatan Bereshit* for *Simbat Torah*, 5737

**Have you given to  
The Building Fund?**

## Camp Ramah

Enrollment in Camp Ramah in the Berkshires for the 1977 camp season is now in progress. Re-enrollment applications have been mailed to returning campers. It is important that these be returned to the Ramah office at 3080 Broadway, N.Y. 10027 as early as possible to guarantee reservations. The one-month camping program will be offered again this summer and is open to students entering grades 4 through 7 next fall.

Camp Ramah, sponsored by the Conservative Movement, offers an ideal summer experience for students who exhibit a keen interest in their Religious School studies. Ramah campers have contributed greatly to raising the standards of Religious Schools. A summer at this unique educational, recreational facility should be high on the priority list of parents.

For further information, kindly call the Ramah office at RI 9-8000.

## Visit Our Gift Shop

*Our Gift Shop has a fine selection of gifts. For just the perfect gift, traditional and modern, for Bar/Bat Mitzvahs and items of special significance, for beautiful, meaningful Hanukkah gifts, we suggest that you visit the Ceremonial Gift Shop.*

Mrs. Jacob Applebaum, chairman; Mrs. Isidor Hahn, co-chairman; Mrs. Harris Willins and Mrs. Irving Yudkoff supervise the Gift Shop and will be happy to help you with your selection.

The following special time schedule has been arranged for the convenience of those who wish to purchase gifts during *Hanukkah*:

### December

1 Wednesday	11 - 5
5 Sunday	11 - 2
6 Monday	11 - 5
7 Tuesday	11 - 5
8 Wednesday	11 - 5
9 Thursday	11 - 5
12 Sunday	11 - 5
13 Monday	11 - 5
14 Tuesday	11 - 5
15 Wednesday	11 - 5
16 Thursday	11 - 5

## National Conference On High School Jewish Education at PAS

The sixth biennial conference on high school Jewish education, sponsored by the United Synagogue Commission on Jewish Education, will take place on Sunday and Monday, December 26th and 27, at Park Avenue Synagogue. The theme of this year's conference is "Teaching For Religious Commitment". The conference is planned for Jewish high school principals, teachers and lay leaders as well as those who are desirous of meeting others who are committed to Jewish high school education. There will be seminars, teaching seminars and major addresses. Those who are interested in attending may obtain further information by contacting the United Synagogue Commission on Jewish Education at 155 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010 by letter or by telephone.

### Sharon Gardens

For your peace of mind and that of your loved ones, select a plot now in Park Avenue Synagogue Sharon Gardens, Kensico Cemetery in Westchester County. Please phone Mr. Martin Leichtling for details — EN 9-2600.

### Park Avenue Synagogue

50 East 87th Street, New York, N. Y. 10028  
Tel.: EN 9-2600

*Affiliated with the Jewish Theological Seminary and the United Synagogue of America*

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